

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (original): A method of heat pipe wick manufacture comprising the steps of

positioning metal felt adjacent to a metal substrate,

positioning a porous metal exoskeleton member adjacent to the metal felt

whereby the metal felt is between the metal substrate and the porous metal

exoskeleton member, and

applying heat sufficient to cause the metal felt to adhere to both the porous metal

exoskeleton member and the metal substrate.

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Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim [[14]] 10 further comprising a step selected from the group consisting of

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applying brazing material between the metal felt and metal substrate,

applying brazing material between the metal felt and the porous metal

exoskeleton member, and

applying brazing material between the metal felt and metal substrate as well as

between the metal felt and the porous metal exoskeleton member

prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim [[14]] 10 further comprising the step of grit blasting elements selected from the group consisting of

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the metal substrate,

the porous metal exoskeleton member, and

both the metal substrate and the metal exoskeleton member

prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 11 further comprising the step of grit blasting elements selected from the group consisting of  
the metal substrate,  
the porous metal exoskeleton member, and  
both the metal substrate and the metal exoskeleton member

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prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 16 12 wherein a temperature of 1100 C is attained by the metal felt, the metal substrate, and the porous metal exoskeleton member during the step of applying heat.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 17 13 wherein a temperature of 1100 C is attained by the metal felt, the metal substrate, and the porous metal exoskeleton member during the step of applying heat

Claim 16 (original): A method of heat pipe wick manufacture comprising the steps of  
positioning wick material adjacent to a rigid substrate, and  
positioning a rigid porous exoskeleton member adjacent to the wick material  
whereby the wick material is between the rigid substrate and the rigid porous  
exoskeleton member.

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Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of bonding the wick material to both the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said step of bonding is accomplished using an adhesive applied in a single step after the wick material, the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member have been assembled.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18 wherein said step of bonding is accomplished using adhesive applied in more than one step in the course of assembly of the wick material, the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member.